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Conversations with Ron Rash

Carol Walker Jordan

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

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creation and power of the islands. Each snapshot has an easy-to-read written description. Shots such as the book cover, of the sun and clouds on the horizon over the islands and the water engage the reader. Scenes of beaches, shells, dunes, lighthouses, birds, a deer, flora, and horses transfix the reader. A map of the North Carolina coast reveals North Currituck Banks, Pine Island, Kitty Hawk Woods, Nags Head Woods, Jockey's Ridge, Bodie Island, Pea Island, Hatteras Island, Cape Hatteras, Ocracoke Island, North Core Banks, and South Core Banks. Others disclosed on the map are Cape Lookout, Shackleford Banks, Bogue Banks, Bear Island, Lea-Hutaff Island, Masonboro Island, Cape Fear River Islands, Cape Fear, and Bird Island. More mentioned on the map comprise Currituck Sound, Albemarle Sound, Roanoke Island, Pamlico Sound, Hatteras Flats, Diamond Shoals, Cedar Island, and Core Sound. Further noted on the map are Cape Lookout Shoals, Cape Fear River, Frying Pan Shoals, Suffolk shoreline one hundred twenty thousand years ago, and glacial maximum shoreline twenty thousand years ago. The author notes Kitty Hawk Woods Reserve and Nags Head Woods have superb strolling trails.

The content includes Contents, Preface, Currituck Banks including sections: North Currituck Banks, Pine Island, Kitty Hawk Woods, Nags Head Woods, Jockey's Ridge, and Cape Hatteras National Seashore including sections: Bodie Island, Pea Island, Hatteras Island, Cape Hatteras, Ocracoke Island. Others include Cape Lookout National Seashore including sections: North Core Banks, South Core Banks, Cape Lookout, Shackleford Banks, and The Southern Islands including sections: Bogue Banks, Bear Island, Lea-Hutaff Island, Masonboro Island, Cape Fear River Island, Cape Fear, and Bird Island. There is an Epilogue, Acknowledgments, and Index.

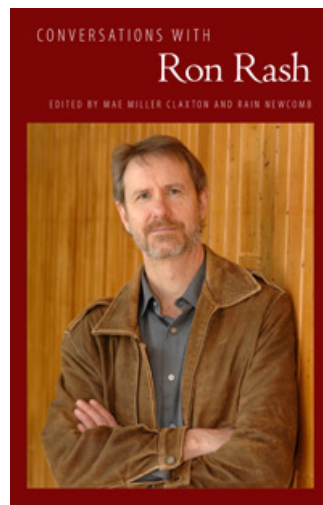
Birds on the islands remarked about are wild geese, blue heron, tundra swans, gannets, cormorants, brown pelicans, redhead ducks, seabirds, sanderling birds, tern, gulls, and ibis. More birds recognized are egrets, American oystercatchers, osprey, black skimmers, Nelson's sharp-tailed sparrow, dunlin, plover, Ruddy turnstone, willets, yellow-rumped warbler, pintails, and boat-tailed grackle. In addition the islands have ponies, box turtles, fish, lizards, salamanders, southern leopard frogs, white-lip globe snails, grasshoppers, frogs, and dragonflies. Additionally, banker ponies, ghost crabs, loggerhead sea turtles, southern leopard frogs, clams, oysters, and scallops are pointed out. Foliage on the islands consist of oak trees, pines, mallows, southern red oak, sweet gum, and bald cypress. Other greenery present are hickory, red maple, dogwood, American holly tree, and American beech tree. Black willow trees, Bladderwort, swamp tupelo, cinnamon fern, dune pea, orchids, croton, and firewheel occur on the islands as well. Seaside golden rod, eelgrass, morning glory flowers, cordgrass, willet, and seabeach amaranth endure on the islands, too. Intriguingly, shells on the land that are colorful are new to the islands while the white shells have been on the islands for such an extensive period the sun has bleached them. Seeds of seabeach amaranth, a plant on Bird Island, exist in the ocean a very long time until the seeds reach a land where the seabeach amaranths

can grow. Academic and public libraries should add this picture-perfect beauty to their collections because of its outstanding magnetism to visitors to North Carolina and the historical narrative and untouchable research of the Barrier Islands.

Melinda F. Matthews

University of Louisiana at Monroe Library

Conversations with Ron Rash. Edited by Mae Miller Claxton and Rain Newcomb. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2017. ISBN 978-1-4968-0896-7. 212 p. \$55.



If you are a "Ron Rash Raving Fan" of this author's attractive and alluringly descriptive prose, this book is for you. "Conversations with Ron Rash", edited by Mae Miller Claxton and Rain Newcomb, is truly a comfortable, friendly and insightful group of conversations.

Hope Quinn, a Western Carolina graduate student, began this book, *Conversations with Ron Rash*, with her honors project—to investigate interviews that Ron Rash provided from his travels in the United States and abroad. From this initial beginning of compiling and reading these interviews, Mae Claxton and Rain Newcomb, faculty colleagues, decided to create a manuscript including the entirety of Ron's interviews over 15 years. These interviews provide a 15 year landscape that show the writer and teacher, the "contemporary and the new Ron Rash".

From reading each interview, I, as a raving fan, gained amazing insights into Ron's interpretation and advice to aspiring writers. Known as an Appalachian writer, Ron is one who always remembers his forefathers/foremothers, landscapes, and life lessons. There is a beauty to the diverse interview questions and to the answers and musings Ron provided in the interviews.

Any faculty member/ teacher and student of writing and research will benefit from the interviews. A "Ron Rash Raving Fan" will become an even greater fan of this man

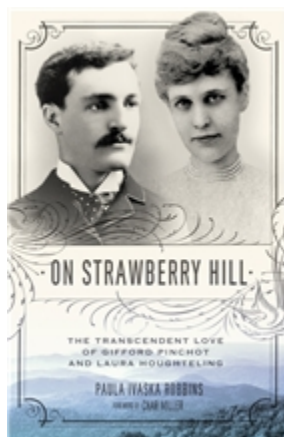
and also will thank Mae and Rain and Hope for the work they gave us.

Recommended for public libraries and academic libraries. See the additional resources and index (pg. 203 to 211).

Carol Walker Jordan

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

On Strawberry Hill: The Transcendent Love of Gifford Pinchot and Laura Houghteling. Paula Ivaska Robbins. Tuscaloosa: The University of Alabama Press, 2017. ISBN 978-0-8173-9094-5 (ebook); 978-0-8173-5894-5 (hard). 136 p. \$19.95.



In her Acknowledgements section of *On Strawberry Hill: The Transcendent Love of Gifford Pinchot and Laura Houghteling*, Paula Robbins credits her strong dependency upon “the wonderfully knowledgeable and helpful archivists of the Buncombe County Pack Library North Carolina Room”.

The setting of the development of Gifford Penchant’s career was in the mountains of North Carolina in West Asheville where he followed his desire to become a forester and convince others that forest management was a national issue. Laura Houghteling was a patient suffering from consumption and living with a family in Asheville where the environmental conditions were said to be conducive to better health. So begins the story...a handsome young man walking and studying the landscapes and a young woman living in a mansion on a hill looking out her window and seeing him.

Imagine the challenge Robbins confronted to tell a story of the personal lives of two individuals, two families, many historical figures, the building of the Biltmore Estate landscapes and the Pisgah Forest, nation building during the time of the Presidency of Theodore Roosevelt and of William H. Taft, a wave of American Spiritualism and rise and fall of American progressive and conservative movements. From her extensive thirteen pages of bibliographic notes and nine black and white illustrations, it is clear there may be many knowledgeable and helpful

librarians and research sites that fueled Robbins artistic crafting of her manuscript.

To be able to provide alluringly descriptive prose to tell Gifford Pinchot and Laura Houghteling’s relationship story, Robbins reveals a multitude of research sites, interviews, conversations and collaborations that will be of keen interest to students of the environment, the politics of conservation, spiritualism, and the history of medical challenges such as consumption, tuberculosis, and the treatments for patients in the late 1850s and early 1900s.

Recommended for public libraries, academic libraries and special collections of history of North Carolina.

Carol Walker Jordan

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Stepdaughters of History: Southern Women and the American Civil War. Catherine Clinton. Baton Rouge: LSU Press, 2016. ISBN 978-0-8071-6457-0. 160 p. \$27.50.



The representation of southern women, during and in the aftermath of the Civil War, is varied and complex. In *Stepdaughters of History: Southern Women and the American Civil War*, Catherine Clinton integrates recent scholarship and historical research to provide a more revealing portrayal of women’s wartime participation. Dividing the book into three sections, the author explores the postwar narrative of southern white women who fashioned their own “Lost Cause” legacy, and of southern black women, whose legacy was formed for them.

In the book’s first section, “Band of Sisters,” Clinton addresses how southern white women formed a “collective identity” through shared sacrifices and wartime experiences. This “band of sisters” remained stoic, supportive, prayerful, and patriotic as their men came back diseased, dismembered, or not at all. Crossing socio-economic boundaries, they ranged from upper-class women who bore the administrative and supervisory responsibilities of plantations, to poor women who were faced with starvation, sickness, and assault. In many cases, their stalwart facades masked a deeper sense of betrayal